

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A justification authenticating system comprising:

a database for storing an identifier of a personal certificate and digital watermark information related to said identifier;

a personal certificate, which is at least one of a card type or a book type, containing said identifier;

said personal certificate also containing a readable authentic image in which a digital watermark relative to said identifier is embedded;

a read unit operable to read at least said authentic image from said personal certificate;

a watermark information inquiring unit operable to extract digital watermark information corresponding to said identifier from said authentic image; and

a watermark information comparing unit operable to judge whether said digital watermark information extracted by said watermark information inquiring unit from said personal certificate is identical to said watermark information stored in said database; and

a unit operable to update said digital watermark information stored in said database and said digital watermark information embedded in said authentic image in said personal certificate each time said watermark information inquiring unit judges said digital watermark information to be justifiable,

wherein if said watermark inquiring unit finds identical watermark information in said watermark information from said authentic image and said database, said watermark inquiring unit justifies said personal certificate; and

if the watermark information from the two sources are not identical, then the watermark inquiring unit fails to justify said personal certificate.

2. (Original) The justification authenticating system of claim 1, wherein said personal certificate includes:

an information carrier for storing said authentic image; and

said digital watermark is embedded in said authentic image stored in said information carrier.

3. (Original) The justification authenticating system of claim 2, wherein said information carrier is at least one of a semiconductor memory and a magnetic recording material.

4. (Previously Presented) The justification authenticating system of claim 2, wherein:

said information carrier includes said authentic image being a printed authentic image affixed to said personal certificate; and

said read unit reads said printed image.

5. (Original) The justification authenticating system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said identifier and said digital watermark information includes an element that is randomly generated.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The justification authenticating system of claim 1, further comprising:

a communication device for communicating said watermark information between said watermark information inquiring unit and said database.

8. (Currently Amended) A personal certificate issuing system comprising:

an identifier generating unit operable to generate an identifier unique to a personal certificate, wherein the personal certificate is at least one of a card type or a book type;

a watermark information generating unit operable to generate digital watermark information corresponding to said identifier;

a database for storing said identifier of said personal certificate and said digital watermark information relative to said identifier in relation to each other;

a watermark information registering unit operable to store said identifier generated by said identifier generating unit and said digital watermark information generated by said watermark information generating unit in said database;

an image input unit operable to input a raw authentic image;

a watermark-embedded image forming unit operable to form a watermark-embedded authentic image in which said digital watermark is embedded on said authentic image input by said image input unit; and

a personal certificate that readably carries said authentic image generated by said watermark-embedded image forming unit and said identifier generated by said identifier generating unit;

wherein said digital watermark information stored in said database and embedded in said authentic image of said personal certificate is updated according to predetermined timing, and said predetermined timing includes each time said system correctly justifies an authentic image.

9. (Original) The personal certificate issuing system of claim 8, wherein:

said personal certificate includes an information carrier for storing said authentic image; and

said authentic image includes a digital watermark embedded in said authentic image stored in said information carrier.

10. (Original) The personal certificate issuing system of claim 9, wherein said information carrier is at least one of a semiconductor memory and a magnetic material.

11. (Previously Presented) The personal certificate issuing system of claim 9, wherein:

said information carrier includes said authentic image being a printed authentic image affixed to said personal certificate; and

said read unit reads said printed authentic image.

12. (Original) The personal certificate issuing system of claim 8, wherein at least one of said identifier and said digital watermark information includes an element that is randomly generated.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The personal certificate issuing system of claim 8, further comprising:

a communication device for communicating said watermark information between said watermark information inquiring unit and said database.

16. (Currently Amended) A personal certificate comprising:

a card or a book;

a unique identifier;

an authentic image of an authorized user of said card or book;

said authentic image being viewable by eye;

said authentic image containing embedded therein digital watermark information corresponding to said identifier; and

a unit operable to permit communication of said identifier and said digital watermark information to a database remote from said card or book;

wherein said digital watermark information stored in said database and said digital watermark information embedded in said authentic image in said personal certificate each time said digital watermark information in said authentic image in said personal certificate is judged to be justifiable.